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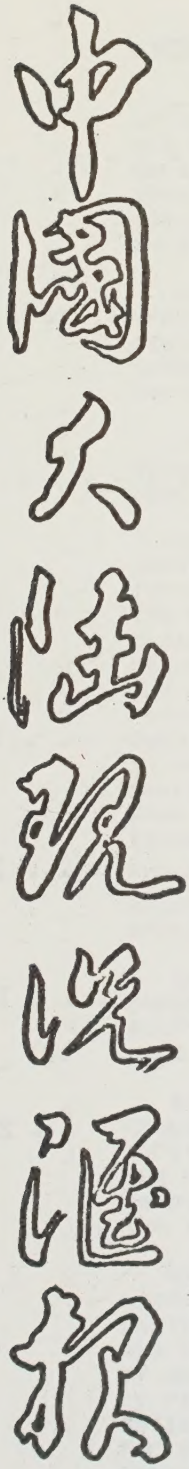

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Series of Eight NCNA Reports on How Three Provinces in Northern China Become Self-Sufficient in Grain

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Three Northern Provinces of China Set New Grain Record after Achieving Grain Sufficiency--First in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Have Achieved Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 9, 1972)

the three provinces of hopei, shantung and honan in northern china, traditionally hit by natural disasters, low-yielding and grain deficient, have become basically self-sufficient in grain since 1970. despite serious natural disasters in 1971, the three adjoining provinces made further advances and registered an all-time record grain harvest.

some people's communes and production brigades in these provinces now have collective grain reserves, and many peasant families have a grain surplus. the dynamic change is important for china's agriculture and a victory for chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line.

important agricultural centres, the three provinces account for one-fifth of the country's total farmland and population.

situated in the haiho, huai and yellow river basins, these provinces are crossed by many waterways and have fertile soil and rich natural resources. however, under the brutal oppression and exploitation of the feudal landlord class and the kuomintang reactionaries, the resources were misused. this resulted in serious erosion in the upper and middle reaches of the rivers and silting of the lower reaches. heavy rains used to swell the rivers and cause dyke breaches and flooding. much farmland turned saline. on the other hand, the dry season meant drought, with many smaller streams virtually drying up. historical records show that the yellow river breached its dykes 1,500 times in the 2,000 years before liberation. during the 1933 flood, the river, known as "china's sorrow", submerged 12,000 square kilometres of land in 67 counties of the three provinces and 3.64 million people were seriously affected.

imperialist aggression and plunder, especially the japanese imperialist policy of "kill all, loot all and burn all" threw the people into misery. many innabitants were killed, forests were burned and fields laid waste.

all this subjected the provinces to attacks by flood, drought, sandstorms and salinization and held back agriculture. under the pretext of harnessing the rivers, the reactionary ruling classes collected levies from the people but took no effective measures to control the rivers. the labouring people struggled on the verge of starvation.

after the founding of new china, the people, under the leadership of chairman mao and the chinese communist party, carried out land reform to abolish the centuries-old landlord ownership of land. the people took the road of socialist collectivization and developed production by relying on their collective strength. yet grain deficiency, a problem left over from past regimes, for years was not fundamentally solved. the state had to transport large amount of food grain from the south to the north every year.

solution of this historical problem, therefore, is of great political and economic significance. the great leader chairman mao has shown great concern for the people and production in these provinces and visited them on inspection tours. he issued the calls "the huai river must be harnessed" in 1951, "work on the yellow river must be done well" in 1952 and "the haiho river must be brought under permanent control" in 1963. inspired by these instructions, the people have displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and with state assistance built large-scale water control projects.

before the great proletarian cultural revolution, the renegade liu shao-chi and company pushed a revisionist line and advocated the theory that natural conditions decide everything. they spread such fallacies as "the three northern provinces are often hit by natural disasters and it is reasonable to send in grain from other parts of the country" and "the yellow, huai and haiho rivers cannot be put under complete control". these fallacies were aimed at discouraging the people, undermining farm production in the provinces and thwarting their efforts to end grain deficiency.

firmly implementing chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line, the people have relied on the strength of their socialist collective economy to overcome all difficulties and transform nature, and won tremendous victories.

honan and shantung send several hundred thousand people every year to raise and strengthen the dykes of the yellow and huai rivers and build flood and water-logging control projects and other facilities of various sizes. they also plant trees and do water and soil conservation work. since liberation, the yellow river dykes have never been breached, although this happened virtually every two years out of three in the past. the people in the yellow river valley have in recent years led river water into wasteland and washouts caused by past floods. when the water settles, the silt fills in the hollows and creates top soil to make the land productive again. the silt-free water is used to irrigate farmland. the dangers created by the huai river have been basically ended and irrigation works have been built in the areas it drains. many disaster areas have become granaries.

beginning in 1963, 400,000 peasants of hopei have gone every winter to control the haiho river. in eight years, they dug new channels and dredged main tributaries, totalling 1,790 kilometres. they have also put up 17 big dykes, totalling 1,690 kilometres. plus the 13,000 new branch canals, the work has raised the discharge capacity of the river system eight times. over half of the saline land has been improved. the river basin now has a new appearance. all 47 counties in the worst-affected area of heilungkang have become self-sufficient and some have a surplus of food grain.

the people of these provinces have steadfastly carried out chairman mao's 1964 call "in agriculture, learn from tachai", national pace-setter in agriculture, especially since the beginning of the great proletarian cultural revolution. the party organizations at all levels earnestly study the basic points of tachai's experience, firmly implement chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line, persist in educating the peasants in

marxism-leninism-mao tsetung thought and help heighten their consciousness of farming for the revolution. the people, who have a glorious revolutionary tradition, do as tachai's poor and lower-middle peasants do -- fight the class enemy and nature to develop socialist agriculture. in the spirit of self-reliance and in keeping with the progress of the river projects, they bring into play the strength of the collective economy to improve farmland and irrigation, farm scientifically and mechanize farming. they have made marked achievements in developing production. total grain output of honan in 1971 was 2.2 times that of 1949, the year of liberation. per-hectare yield of shantung was 2.3 times that of 1949. the annual total of hopei over the last two years averaged nearly 1.5 times the highest figure before the haiho river projects were started.

basic grain sufficiency in the three provinces has ended the need for so much grain from the south. it also provices a solid material basis for developing socialist construction and improving the life of the people. it is of importance in carrying out chairman mao's strategic principle "be prepared against war, be prepared against natural disasters, and do everything for the people". agriculture is the foundation of the national economy and grain is the key link in agriculture. the area is also one of china's industrial centres. with self-sufficiency, the provinces are able to deliver far greater quantities of market grain to the state and prepare conditions for expanding industry in the north and speeding up the growth of the national economy as a whole.

on the eve of the founding of the people's republic of china in 1949, then u.s. secretary of state acheson predicted that new china would collapse because it was unable to feed its population. our great leader chairman mao at that time denounced this imperialist assertion and declared explicitly: "revolution plus production can solve the problem of feeding the population". today china is self-sufficient in grain and has a surplus. and the task of ending grain shipment from the south to the north has begun to be materialized. facts testify to chairman mao's wise conclusion and declare the bankruptcy of the imperialist prediction.

People in Northern China Advance in Learning from Tachai in Agriculture

-- Second in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Have Achieved Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 10, 1972)

hopei, shantung and honan provinces in northern china, which used to get grain from the south, have become initially grain-sufficient. the people achieved this by firmly carrying out chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line and deepening the mass movement to learn from the tachai production brigade.

tachai sets a good example in adhering to the principle of putting proletarian politics in command and mao tsetung thought in the lead and in displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and the communist style of loving the state and the collective in building socialist agriculture. fundamental in its experience is educating the people in mao tsetung thought.

the tachai people persist in studying and applying mao tsetung thought, hold fast to the socialist road and bring into full play the superiority of the collective economy to fight against the class enemy and the counter-revolutionary revisionist line and struggle against nature. they have turned a poor hilly village that was often affected by natural calamities into a new socialist one in which grain output surpasses 7.5 tons per hectare and every household has surplus grain.

the tachai experience is of general significance for china's countryside.

our great leader chairman mao in 1964 issued the call to the nation "in agriculture, learn from tachai".

in response, the poor and lower-middle peasants of the three provinces threw themselves into the struggle against nature to build socialist agriculture.

however, the movement was held back by liu shao-chi and other political swindlers who attempted to restore capitalism. they negated the dynamic role of the people armed with mao tsetung thought, one-sidedly exaggerated the unfavourable conditions for developing agriculture in northern china and insisted that "natural conditions decide everything".

during the great proletarian cultural revolution, the people of these provinces repeatedly studied chairman mao's instruction on learning from tachai and relentlessly criticized liu shao-chi and other political swindlers for sabotaging the movement. they gained a deep understanding that the tachai road was essential for building socialist agriculture. thus the movement began to pick up speed under the leadership of party organizations at all levels.

chairman mao teaches: "once the correct ideas characteristic of the advanced class are grasped by the masses, these ideas turn into a material force which changes society and changes the world." the party organizations and revolutionary committees at all levels persistently arm the peasants with mao tsetung thought and enhance their consciousness of farming for the revolution to bring their socialist enthusiasm into fuller play. guided by chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line, the people made efforts to understand nature and transform it and have displayed initiative and creativeness in building socialist agriculture.

in hsinglung county of hopei province, over ninety per cent of the land is on yenshan mountain slopes. the poor natural conditions brought very low grain yields. during the great proletarian cultural revolution, the people of this old revolutionary base county followed the tachai example, carried forward their revolutionary tradition of hard struggle and organized more than 400 teams to improve their area. they blasted rocks to build terraced fields protected by embankments, dammed the gullies to create new fields and planted trees. in the past few years, the people afforested 32,000 hectares, constructed 2,900 check dams and 50 reservoirs, created 3,300 hectares of farmland and dug 650 canals. these proved their worth in fighting the exceptional natural disaster last year. the county got 4.1 tons of grain per hectare, five times the amount in 1949.

the yentai administrative region in shantung province has fertile farmland and fairly good conditions for farming. some cadres of the region before the cultural revolution were influenced by the renegade liu shao-chi's fallacy of "natural conditions decide everything" and became conceited and complacent. they relaxed their leadership over the mass movement to learn from tachai and grain production levelled off.

party organizations and revolutionary committees at all levels in the region during the cultural revolution carried out education among the cadres against conceit and complacency. in the light of the concrete conditions, they repeatedly studied chairman mao's teaching "in agriculture, learn from tachai". the commune members and cadres raised their consciousness of farming for the revolution like the people of tachai. they went all out, made full use of their good natural conditions for higher yields to contribute still more to the socialist revolution and construction. they built water control projects, improved the soil and improved farming conditions. in mountainous areas, they developed a diversified economy while taking grain as the key link and ensuring an all-round development. the region built many local small and medium-sized industries to accelerate agricultural mechanization.

all 17 counties and municipalities in the region had good harvests in 1970 and 1971 as a result of the campaign. the region's average grain yield per hectare last year surpassed the 3.75-ton target set in the national programme for agricultural development. there was an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery.

under the guidance of chairman mao's revolutionary line, hopei, shantung and honan provinces now have quite a number

of advanced units. typical is linhsien county in honan province, known for its large-scale water conducting project through high mountains.

linhsien county is situated in the eastern range of the taihang mountains. more than 370 of the 500 villages were short of water and farm yields used to be low. following the general line of "going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism" formulated by chairman mao, the people made up their minds in 1960 to build a large scale project to lead in water from changho river in neighbouring shansi province for irrigation. but liu shao-chi's local agents tried to stop the project on the pretext of a shortage of funds, technology, "experts" and modern equipment. this was intended to damp down the enthusiasm of the masses. the linhsien people insisted on going ahead and refused to bow before the revisionist line. under the leadership of the party, they followed chairman mao's teaching "the masses have boundless creative power. they can organize themselves and concentrate on places and branches of work where they can give full play to their energy; they can concentrate on production in breadth and depth and create more and more undertakings for their own well-being". they relied on the collective strength of the people's communes and raised most of the funds needed for the project on their own. they built many small workshops to provide material. during the cultural revolution, the linhsien people criticized liu shao-chi's revisionist line and developed the movement to learn from tachai. construction was accelerated. at the end of 1969, the county completed a trunk canal 900 kilometres long, three main and many auxiliary canals, four power stations and 154 power-operated pumping stations. these make the water of the changho river flow across more than 1,000 hills and 1,900 gorges and through 75 tunnels to irrigate 40,000 hectares of farmland in linhsien. the project covers storage, irrigation and drainage. grain output rose quickly. the per hectare yield of the county seven years in a row surpassed the target set in the national programme for agricultural development.

taking tachai as an example, the people of the three provinces in recent years have made efforts to transform nature with state help by relying on their collective strength. they have turned low yield land into stable high-yield fields. water control projects were built in places short of water. large tracts of sandy and saline land were reclaimed and turned into fertile fields. the grain output of the three provinces has increased considerably since 1966. the harvests of cotton and oil-bearing crops are good. forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery have been developed. grain output in the three provinces hit an all-time high in 1971. per hectare yield in many counties and municipalities surpassed the target set in the national programme for agricultural development.

Leading Bodies Guide People in Fight for Grain Self-Sufficiency--Third in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Have Achieved Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 11, 1972)

party organizations at all levels in northern china's hopei, shantung and honan provinces have played an important role in guiding the population to self-sufficiency in grain. they conscientiously study works by marx, engels, lenin and stalin and chairman mao's works to raise their consciousness in carrying out chairman mao's revolutionary line in accordance with his teaching "read and study seriously and have a good grasp of marxism".

during the great proletarian cultural revolution, members of the leading bodies have carried out deep-going education on political line in the light of chairman mao's teaching "the correctness or incorrectness of the ideological and political line decides everything". they have studied works by marx, engels, lenin, stalin and chairman mao to make clear the essence of the struggle between the two lines. they have reviewed and summed up the historical experience of the struggle between the two lines in the chinese communist party over the past 50 years and more. this has given them a deep understanding that dialectical and historical materialism form the theoretical basis for chairman mao's revolutionary line while idealism and metaphysics are the ideological basis for the revisionist line. they also realize that the struggle between the two lines within the party, in the final analysis, is that between the two world outlooks. they are consciously carrying out chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line and remoulding their world outlook to revolutionize their thinking.

members of the leading bodies follow chairman mao's teaching "by taking part in collective productive labour, the cadres maintain extensive, constant and close ties with the working people. this is a major measure of fundamental importance for a socialist system; it helps to overcome bureaucracy and to prevent revisionism and dogmatism". both cadres in the revolution for many years and new ones who have come forward during the cultural revolution work as ordinary labouring people among the masses in giving guidance. the masses trust and respect them.

examples of these are wang kuo-fan, wang yu-kun, keng chang-so and chang fu-kuei. they are secretaries of county party committees, members of provincial party committees or members of the party central committee. but they act according to chairman mao's teachings on continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and his injunction: "don't rest on your laurels, make new contributions". they have set strict demands on themselves, remain modest and prudent, keep to the style of hard work and plain living and retain the true qualities of the working people.

wang kuo-fan, party branch secretary of the hsipu brigade in tsunhua county of hopei province, is member of the party central committee and secretary of the tsunhua county party committee. he led 22 other poor

peasant households in 1953 in forming the first agricultural producers' cooperative in his poverty-stricken hilly area while many villagers were still in a "wait and see" frame of mind. apart from the land these 23 families had received in the land reform, they owned nothing except a three quarters' share in a donkey. when some richer peasants contemptuously dubbed it "the paupers' co-op", wang kuo-fan with quiet humour adopted the name.

in the past two years and more, he has been to all the communes and most of the production brigades in the county. he works with the commune members wherever he goes.

every winter and spring when the county is building drainage and irrigation projects, he often goes to the worksites. the county is making great efforts to mechanize agriculture in response to chairman mao's call. he goes into the hills with the commune members to search for mineral deposits and makes iron and steel with the workers. his example encourages the cadres and commune members. the peasants praise him in these words: "comrade kuo-fan has no 'official' airs. he is one with us in sweating in farm work and in his thinking and feelings. we can learn the 'paupers' spirit in everything he does." other members of the county party committee and county revolutionary committee take wang kuo-fan as their example. the leading body of tsunhua county has taken firm root among the masses and therefore is able to give effective leadership. the county has made great progress in farm production and become an outstanding unit in the province in learning from tachai, national pace-setter in agriculture.

members of the leading bodies at all levels in these provinces study chairman mao's philosophical thinking and adhere to the standpoint that practice is primary. they often go to the forefront of the three great revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. they make careful investigations to solve problems and sum up and popularize advanced experience. they have thus strengthened the leadership over the movement to learn from tachai. the party committee of yutai county in shantung province is an example.

more than seventy per cent of its land was lower than the surface of nearby weishan lake and liable to flood and water-logging. the party and government allocated grain and loans to the people of the county every year after liberation. but this remained a disaster area backward in agriculture due to the influence of liu shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line.

the new county party committee and revolutionary committee, set up in the great proletarian cultural revolution, have firmly carried out chairman mao's proletarian revolutionary line. in line with chairman mao's teaching "everyone engaged in practical work must investigate conditions at the lower levels", they sent out many cadres to work in communes and brigades and heeded the voice of the masses. in the course of investigations, the secretary and deputy secretary of the county party committee found that the miaocni brigade and the lichi brigade, only 2.5 kilometres apart, had similar natural conditions but

different in production results and thinking. full of revolutionary vigour in changing nature, members of lichi brigade transformed their water-logged land into fertile fields that give high stable yield irrespective of long dry spells or excessive rain. the brigade got good harvests six years running and every member supplied the state with an average of 400 kilogrammes of surplus grain. but the miaochi brigade depended on grain and loans from the state every year.

through deep-going investigations, the county party committee pinpointed the decisive factors. lichi brigade's leadership persisted in putting proletarian politics in command and brought the initiative of the masses into full play by educating them in chairman mao's teachings "poverty gives rise to the desire for change, the desire for action and the desire for revolution" and "transform china in the spirit of the foolish old man who removed the mountains". the miaochi brigade's party branch had relaxed its leadership over ideological work and class struggle.

the county party committee summed up and popularized the experience of lichi brigade and helped miaochi's leading body improve its work. as a result, lichi continued to advance and miaochi caught up with it. last year, miaochi reaped a good grain harvest of 5.2 tons per hectare and its total grain output was treble that in 1970.

this experience confirmed for the county party committee the fact that the line any leading body follow is the key deciding the results of the mass movement to learn from tachai. the county party committee therefore did conscientious ideological and organizational work to strengthen the leading bodies in the commune and brigade levels throughout the county and raise their consciousness in carrying out chairman mao's revolutionary line. in 1971, the county became self-sufficient in grain and also supplied the state with 25,000 tons of surplus grain.

hsinhsiang county, a leading cotton-grower in honan province, has increased its output of cotton and grain year after year since the beginning of the cultural revolution because it firmly applies chairman mao's principle of "grasping revolution, promoting production". in 1969, the county's output of ginned cotton averaged 862 kilogrammes per hectare, an all-time high, and grain surpassed the target of 3 tons per hectare set in the national programme for agricultural development for the area north of the yellow river. some cadres and peasants became conceited, thinking "we've reached the maximum".

in line with chairman mao's teaching on being modest and prudent and guarding against arrogance and rashness, the county party committee carried out public rectification among cadres. they conscientiously studied chairman mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. the secretary and other leading members of the county party committee went to haotsun brigade and asked the cadres and peasants to tell the lessons they had drawn from their conceit and arrogance. as early as in 1957, output of ginned cotton in the brigade topped 750 kilogrammes per hectare and grain production surpassed the per-unit yield target set in the national programme for

agricultural development. but its yields of grain and cotton later grew very slowly and even dropped, due to conceit and arrogance. through the cultural revolution, leading members of the brigade raised their consciousness of continuing the revolution and seriously summed up their experience. they led the masses in grasping revolution and promoting production. its output of ginned cotton averaged 1,155 kilogrammes per hectare and grain 6.4 tons in 1969. the brigade has again become one of the advanced units in the county.

drawing a lesson from haotsun brigade, the county party committee saw that as production and revolution were surging, they should in no circumstances become conceited. they made energetic efforts to revolutionize their thinking and modestly learn from the masses. they led the people of the whole county in pushing the mass movement to learn from tachai to a new height and bringing about steady increase in grain and cotton output. last year, each of its 7,330 hectares grown to cotton produced 1,035 kilogrammes of ginned cotton, and grain output reached 4.4 tons per hectare, 16 per cent higher than in 1970.

the deep-going mass movement in hopei, shantung and honan to learn from tachai has not only brought about profound changes in natural conditions, but also brought up large numbers of fine cadres. working in great vigour in leading bodies at various levels, new and old cadres learn from each other and unite as one. the strengthening of leading bodies ensures still greater victories for the people of the three provinces in advancing along chairman mao's revolutionary line.

Great Progress in Water Conservancy--Fourth in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Have Achieved Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 12, 1972)

following chairman mao's great teaching "irrigation is the lifeblood of agriculture", the people of the three provinces of hopei, shantung and honan have made great efforts to harness the yellow, huai and haiho rivers in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work. they have built many projects along these rivers to prevent flood, overcome waterlogging and irrigate farmland. at the same time, they have sunk large numbers of wells on the plains and built thousands of reservoirs in the hills. compared with 1950, total irrigated acreage in these provinces has increased sevenfold and large tracts of saline and alkaline soil have been improved. these are important factors contributing to the three provinces' grain sufficiency.

the yellow river, china's second largest river, runs across honan and shantung provinces before emptying into the sea. as a result of serious soil erosion in its upper and middle reaches, the river used to carry large amounts of silt downstream and the lower course filled up to such an extent that the channels rose generally three to four metres, and at some places 10 metres, above the land on both banks. flood water had to be contained by dykes. due to negligence by the successive reactionary ruling classes in the past, the dykes were low and worn-out, and when a bigger flood took place, the dykes were breached and inundation occurred. during the over 2,000 years prior to liberation, the yellow river dykes breached 1,500 times in the lower reaches, affecting 250,000 square kilometres from tientsin to the north and the huai river to the south.

after country-wide liberation the people of shantung and honan, led by the party, carried out extensive work to repair the dykes along the yellow and huai rivers. contingents of builders were sent every year to strengthen the dykes and put up projects to divert or hold up flood water.

with state support, the two provinces have over the past 20 years and more built or strengthened 1,800 kilometres of dykes along the yellow river and replaced the more than 5,000 straw-and-earth embankments with stone ones. these projects involved 350 million cubic metres of earthwork and more than nine million cubic metres of stonework. they have helped to prevent dyke-breaching which occurred twice every three years along the yellow river in the past.

our great leader chairman mao has shown great attention to the harnessing of the yellow river. when the people's victory canal, the first of its kind in the lower reaches of the yellow river, was in the main completed in 1952 by the people of honan's hsinhsiang area, chairman mao inspected the project and issued the great call "work on the yellow river must be done well." he made more inspections of the river later. his call greatly inspired the people in the yellow river basin and their initiative in harnessing the river rose to an unprecedented height. many projects to control the river emerged. after liberation, shantung and honan built more than 40 sluice gates

along the yellow river to lead in water for irrigation. none existed before. last winter and this spring, five more sluice gates were built and they brought the total area irrigated by the yellow river to more than 266,000 hectares. the yellow river, once known as the scourge of china, has been turned into a river beneficial to the people.

inspired by chairman mao's call "the haiho river must be brought under permanent control", the people of hopei province as well as those inhabiting the basin of the haiho river system in shantung and honan provinces started to conquer the haiho river. after eight years of hard work, they dug and dredged 2,160 kilometres of trunk waterways including the heilungkang, the new tzuya and the tuhai rivers, and built 2,340 kilometres of dykes. the draining capacity of the haiho river system increased eightfold. at the same time, the people dredged or dug 113,000 river tributaries, canals and irrigation ditches and built more than 50,000 bridges, sluice gates and culverts. all this has relieved more than half the farmland in hopei province of flood and waterlogging and promoted agricultural production in the entire river basin.

the people of the three provinces have cooperated closely in harnessing the rivers. several huai river tributaries run from eastern honan into two administrative regions in shantung province, where the narrow passage often caused inundations during the high water seasons. to change this situation people of the two regions in 1969 started to dredge the major river channels in accordance with chairman mao's teaching: "the huai river must be harnessed." honan province immediately sent builders to take part in the project, which was soon finished. the scheme has freed large tracts of land in the two regions and 80,000 hectares in honan province from waterlogging.

party organizations of the three provinces have laid stress on building small water control projects by communes and brigades so as to give full play to the initiative of the masses, while the larger projects are undertaken by the state. hsinyang county situated in the upper reaches of the huai river in honan province suffered from frequent droughts before the great cultural revolution. its efforts to harness rivers were hampered by liu shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line which advocated sole reliance on experts. during the cultural revolution the commune members smashed the revisionist line and from 1966 to 1970 built four medium-sized reservoirs and 43 small ones, mostly by their own efforts, in addition to some large water-control projects financed by the state.

the superiority of china's socialist system has been fully demonstrated in harnessing the yellow, huai and haiho rivers. the three provinces have enjoyed energetic support from the state and the people throughout the country. in the huai river-harnessing project alone, the state has invested 4,000 million yuan.

the people said happily: we owe all our achievements to the party and chairman mao. such achievements were inconceivable in the old society in which the exploiting classes tried every way possible to squeeze money from the people under the pretext of harnessing rivers.

the three provinces often suffer from drought in the spring low water season. the local people sank pump wells to irrigate farmland while harnessing the yellow, huai and haiho rivers. they seriously studied chairman mao's brilliant philosophic thinking and applied it in discovering the law governing underground water and overcoming difficulties. they have sunk 400,000 pump wells since 1966, which provide water for half the irrigated acreage in these provinces. the local people have also made water lifting equipment on their own.

with the deepening of the mass movement to learn from tachai, they have followed tachai's example and built fields which give high and stable yield despite drought and excessive rain. they have dug ditches to wash off alkali and built raised fields on low-lying alkaline areas, and planted trees and grew grass on sandy land to prevent wind and sand. at the same time, they have deep-ploughed land and covered sand with silt. this has turned many sandy wastes into fertile fields. people in mountainous areas have combined afforestation, irrigation with soil improvement. they have terraced mountain slopes into fields to prevent soil erosion. all this has provided favourable conditions for agriculture.

Achievements in Mass Farm Scientific Experiments--Fifth in a Series on How Three Provinces in North China Achieve Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 13, 1972)

another factor that has brought grain self-sufficiency to hopei, shantung and honan provinces is the large-scale farm scientific experiments conducted by commune members, revolutionary cadres and agro-scientific workers.

the provinces over the past few years have adopted and popularized fine new strains of wheat, maize, kaoliang (chinese sorghum), millet, cotton and other crops and pioneered advanced methods to protect plants and prevent insects. they have also accumulated experience in transforming alkaline land, inter-planting, seed nursing and transplanting. some low-lying and alkaline regions used to plant dry crops. now they have been transformed for rice paddy cultivation. double or triple cropping has replaced single cropping, with increased yield.

leading members at various levels have adhered to chairman mao's instruction: "class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment are the three great revolutionary movements for building a mighty socialist country" and guided the mass movement, joining in the experimental work.

many people's communes and production brigades have formed scientific experiment groups composed of poor and lower-middle peasants as the backbone and including cadres, agro-technicians and educated young people. the agro-scientific and research departments and experimental farms in the provinces, administrative regions and counties have helped spur the movement. hopei province alone last year adopted dozens of new varieties which give high yield of fine quality and are resistant to insects, drought or excessive rain. the tangshan administrative region in the province has built hundreds of insecticide and chemical fertilizer plants. the region achieved an all-time high grain output last year.

the mass scientific experiments have also trained local experts, including poor and lower-middle peasants and educated young people who in turn have played an important role in promoting the movement. yao shih-chang, party branch secretary of a production brigade in shantung, has grasped the law governing high peanut yield and after a long period of study and investigation developed the theory of planting the crop. the land under his management has yielded 6 tons of peanut per hectare. his experience is being popularized throughout the country. liu ying-hsiang, a brigade party branch secretary and veteran poor peasant of honan province, has combined his study of chairman mao's philosophic thinking with scientific experiments on wheat over the past 20 years. he has produced over 7.5 tons of wheat per hectare. the brigade under his leadership achieved 5.1 tons of wheat per hectare last year as against 0.75 tons in the early post-liberation days. his experience has been spread throughout the county which, thanks to his experience,

topped 3.75 tons per hectare, the target set in the national programme for agricultural development. hsi jui-hua, a young woman of hopei and head of a scientific group, has devised methods to control eight species of insect pests after three years of hard work.

in line with chairman mao's teaching "the intellectuals will accomplish nothing if they fail to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants", agro-technicians in the provinces have gone down to the rural areas to be re-educated by the poor and lower-middle peasants. they have been maturing politically and enriched their research topics. people from the agro-scientific institute of hsinhsiang administrative region in honan province have cultivated 39 specifications of fine seed strains. these have been planted to large acreage with good results. a specialist in plant protection once found, while working in a sweet potato producing brigade, that though the output was high, the plants suffered from black rot. this not only affects quality, but makes it difficult to store the potatoes. he went throughout the region to ask the opinions of poor and lower-middle peasants. he made repeated experiments and cut the rate of the disease from 75 per cent to 1.9 per cent. when asked to describe his experience, he said: "if we carry out scientific experiments with the people, there is no limit to creating new things.

a movement is now growing vigorously throughout the three provinces to implement still better the eight-point charter for agriculture (soil improvement, rational application of fertilizer, water control, improved seed strains, rational close planting, plant protection, improvement of farm implements and field management).

Local Industry Spurs Farm Modernization --Sixth in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Achieve Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 14, 1972)

acting on chairman mao's great instruction "the fundamental way out for agriculture lies in mechanization", the people of three provinces in northern china are energetically developing local industry to hasten farm mechanization and technical transformation of agriculture.

with state assistance, hopei, shantung and honan provinces have set up a large number of small enterprises covering mining, metallurgy, farm machinery, chemical fertilizer and cement making. quite a number of counties, people's communes and production brigades have in the main mechanized or semi-mechanized ploughing, irrigation and drainage, field transport, plant protection and farm-produce processing. all this has contributed to attainment of self-sufficiency in grain by the three provinces.

constant floods, droughts and alkalinization and long feudal rule before liberation kept farm production at a very low level in this vast area of the three adjoining provinces.

after liberation, particularly after collectivization, the peasants, led by the communist party organizations, began the bitter struggle against the elements.

this struggle and their studies of chairman mao's general principle for developing the national economy enabled them to understand that the only correct road for socialist agriculture is to mechanize farming on the basis of collectivization. so they set out to develop local industry for this purpose after the rural people's communes were set up in 1958.

however, this encountered sabotage from liu shao-chi and other political swindlers, who pushed a counter-revolutionary revisionist line. when china faced temporary difficulties owing to natural disasters and sabotage by soviet revisionism in 1959-1961, these political swindlers wantonly slashed back local industry. this retarded farm mechanization in these provinces.

during the great proletarian cultural revolution, the people armed with marxism-leninism-mao tsetung thought condemned the counter-revolutionary crimes committed by liu shao-chi and company. farm mechanization began to gather speed again.

during the cultural revolution, honan has built 20 small iron and steel plants, 58 small chemical fertilizer plants and over 100 small cement works. the province last year produced twice as much pig iron, half as much steel again and four times as much cement as in 1965, the year before the cultural revolution began.

hopei has concentrated on developing industries that provide raw and semi-finished materials for farm mechanization. the province has set up over 1,000 small enterprises producing iron, steel, chemical fertilizer and cement. the production capacity of

nitrogenous fertilizer in the province has grown 55-fold since 1965, and the capacity of the county- and commune-run phosphorous fertilizer plants has grown 11-fold.

Shantung has built more than 600 small enterprises. these cover iron and steel making, machine building, power generating, chemicals and cement making.

in all, the three provinces now have twice as many tractors and five times as many diesel engines and electric motors as in 1965. over 90 per cent of the counties in these provinces have farm machinery repair plants. many counties have a repair and maintenance network down to the production brigades.

the party organizations and revolutionary committees at all levels adhere to the policy of mainly relying on the localities to make farm machinery. many places have built up an independent farm machinery industry that uses local raw materials. the progress made by tsunhua county in hopei province is typical.

tapping its rich mineral resources, this hilly county in a few years' time has set up a complete range of small industry serving agriculture, covering coal mining, metallurgy and farm machinery. tsunhua has more than 110 small factories and mines run by the county or people's communes. this is a result of following chairman mao's general policy for the development of the national economy -- "take agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor", and simultaneously developing industry and agriculture, light and heavy industries. the county's machine-building industry now makes more than 900 products including motors, diesel engines, pumps, threshers, crushers, transformers and simple machine tools. in the past the county could make only picks, sickles and hoes. transportation and the processing of farm and side-line products are mechanized or semi-mechanized. fields are farmed and irrigated by machines to a great extent. the people in other places in the three provinces with natural conditions like those in tsunhua are studying its experience so as to develop farm mechanization faster.

the low-lying hsinhsiang administrative region of honan province was subject to drought, waterlogging and alkalinity before liberation. in the mass movement to learn from tachai, national pace-setter in agriculture, the people there followed chairman mao's instruction "irrigation is the lifeblood of agriculture" and launched a drive to build reservoirs on hills and sink wells on the plains. in the past few years they built more than 70 small and medium-sized reservoirs and 670 electric pumping stations, dug main ditches totalling 100 kilometres in length, sank more than 40,000 pump wells and put up 100,000 high or low tension transmission line poles. to meet the needs of building irrigation works, the hsinhsiang people, led by the regional party committee, built 350 farm machinery manufacturing or repair factories and 31 cement works. these have turned out a large number of motors, pumps and diesel engines and large quantities of cement. fiftyseven small chemical works mainly producing chemical fertilizer went up in recent years.

better water conservancy facilities and more chemical fertilizer have contributed to good yields for years on end. the average per-hectare grain yield in hsinhsiang in 1970 was 56 per cent over 1965, and that of ginned cotton 66 per cent. output of these crops went up again last year.

places lacking coal and iron ore have difficulties in making farm machines. but the people strive to develop agricultural production and, on the basis of a steady rise in their living standard, increase their public funds to buy machines. huantai county in shantung province is an example.

situated on the alluvial plain in the lower reaches of the yellow river, the county has neither coal nor iron. since the people's communes were set up in 1958, the county's leadership has adhered to the policy "take grain as the key link and ensure an all-round development". it set to and developed side-line production while raising grain output. the county undertakes a dozen side-lines such as forestry, pig raising, brick making, oil pressing and flour milling. it always sows a certain acreage to cotton and tobacco, major industrial crops there. communes and production brigades are breeding fish wherever possible. they use reeds for weaving articles so as to raise their income and accumulate funds to buy machines. they have bought more than 4,490 tractors, motors, diesel and petrol engines. the county, communes and production brigades share over 330 big and medium-sized metal-cutting machine tools. the county now has more than semi-mechanized its ploughing, irrigation and drainage, transportation, threshing, plant protection and farm-produce processing.

Changes in North China Area--Seventh in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Achieve Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 15, 1972)

the heilungkang area, comprising 47 counties and cities in hopei province, has drought, waterlogging and salinity under control. this achievement illustrates the successful efforts to fight the elements by people in the three northern provinces of hopei, honan and shantung under the leadership of the communist party.

the heilungkang area on the eastern part of the hopei plain borders on pohai bay, where the main tributaries of the haiho river system converge and empty into the sea. the complicated river system, silted up in some parts, used to bring disasters. a rough count shows that in the 580 years from 1368 to 1948, the area had 380 serious floods and over 400 droughts. the flood of 1939 made millions of people homeless. this plus man-eating exploitation in the old society made it very hard for the labouring people to live. people told of their misery: "in spring we plant fields white with salinity; summer and autumn floods swamp our crop. we sow but harvest nothing, nine years out of ten we go begging."

the revolution abolished the system of exploitation. after liberation, the party and people's government showed great concern for the people of heilungkang and sent them quantities of grain and other materials every year. the people expressed their confidence that under the wise leadership of the party and chairman mao, they would surely be able to triumph over the natural disasters. those who fled famine before liberation returned, determined to remake their localities.

when floods ravaged and droughts stalked the land, the poor and lower-middle peasants concluded that they could not resist unless they got together. following chairman mao's call "get organized", they set up cooperatives and then in 1958 people's communes. collective economy grew strong. relying on this strength, the people's communes organized efforts to dredge rivers and build drainage and irrigation ditches and reservoirs.

in august 1963, heavy rain brought a bigger flood than the 1939 one. torrents rushed in the area. under the leadership of the party organizations, the people came together to fight. the great leader chairman mao issued the ringing call: "the haiho river must be brought under permanent control exclamation" this inspired the people. they studied and made up their mind to master the flood and harness the rivers.

they spent two years surveying the river courses and making an overall plan. in late autumn of 1965, four hundred thousand people marched to the work-sites and started a vigorous battle to tame the rivers.

with province-wide help, the heilungkang people dredged nine main river channels and over 30 tributaries. they dug a new river 143 kilometres long and 2.5 kilometres wide to provide a direct outlet for the rain-swollen tzuya

river, a main tributary of the haiho. in addition to these big projects, the people in various counties cut 110,000 small and medium ditches and built over 50,000 bridges, sluice-gates and other projects. as a result, 1,066,000 hectares are free from waterlogging, and 2,333,000 hectares from floods.

chinghai county in the estuary of the haiho river system used to be the worst hit by natural disasters. the state had to provide the county with 20,000 tons of grain every year before 1963. following chairman mao's call, the county contributed to building the main projects and in addition, has since 1966 dug or dredged 46 main waterways, cut 300 ditches, and built 48 big electric pumping stations and a large number of smaller ones. all 37,000 hectares of farmland in the county are drained when there is excessive rain and irrigated when there is a drought. grain output rose. despite a drought in the spring and a flood in the summer of 1971, the county got a good harvest, total grain output being 2.7 times the average for 1951 to 1963. it sold the state 18,000 tons of surplus grain, and the communes and brigades increased their grain reserves.

most of the rivers in the area dry up in winter and spring, which are dry seasons. the people wanted to sink wells, but some bourgeois experts said that this was impossible in the area.

during the great proletarian cultural revolution, the people studied works by marx, engels, lenin and stalin and chairman mao's works, and learned from the poor and lower-middle peasants of the tachai production brigade, national pace-setter in agriculture. they decided to sink wells in the revolutionary spirit of daring to think and act. the hsiaohanchuang production brigade of chihsien county dug three deep wells which irrigate all its farmland. the party organizations in the area popularized its experience and mobilized mass efforts to sink wells. seventyone thousand pump wells have now been completed in the heilungkang area and they irrigate 752,000 hectares.

salinity is one important reason for the area's low yield. one-third of the land was alkali in the past as a result of floods and waterlogging. some places could grow no crops. in recent years, the people deepened the movement to learn from tachai and made great efforts to transform the alkali soil. they dug ditches and brought water to wash out the alkali. they built raised fields, levelled land and applied more organic fertilizer. most of the land is transformed. part of it has become high stable fields.

the living standards of the heilungkang people have risen considerably. the majority of the counties in the area have had sufficient food grain since 1970, some even have a surplus. in the old society, when there were natural disasters, 80 per cent of the households in 48 villages of hsienhsien county fled famine and went begging. now the 48 villages are in three people's communes and have 14 tractors that plough more than half of their farmland. many production teams have rice and flour mills and fodder cutting machines. the three communes sell surplus grain to the state every year and enjoy grain reserves. the living standards of the commune members have improved. the poor and lower-middle peasants said that under the wise leadership of chairman mao the people of heilungkang have ended the disasters of centuries and have an ever better and happier life.

Central China Plain Takes on New Look
--Eighth in a Series on How Three Provinces in Northern China Achieve Grain Sufficiency

(NCNA-English Peking, Jun. 16, 1972)

east honan plain in central china is no longer an area suffering from droughts, floods, soil salinity and sand-storms. it has become a thriving socialist countryside.

this is the result of hard work by the people in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

lying south of the yellow river, the plain at one time was a major farm producer because of its fertile soil and easy access to water. then in june 1938 when the japanese aggressor troops invaded the area, the scared kuomintang reactionaries pulled down a section of the yellow river dyke at huayuankou near chengchow city to cover their flight. torrents flooded 44 counties and cities in honan and the neighbouring provinces of anhwei and kiangsu. almost 900,000 people drowned and 12.5 million were made homeless. honan was hardest hit, with nearly half a million lives lost. six hundred thousand hectares of farmland on the east honan plain were scored with gullies and hollows while the rivers silted up. many parts were reduced to sandy waste, aggravated by salinity. "no villages, no houses, no trees and no paths" -- were the words used to describe the worst affected areas.

full of hatred for imperialism and the kuomintang reactionaries, the people after liberation worked hard to restore and develop farming under the leadership of the communist party. they received help from the state. especially when they came together in agricultural cooperatives and later in people's communes, they relied on the strength of the socialist collective economy and dredged rivers, planted trees and controlled salinity and sand. big progress has been made.

the three major rivers in hsihua county in the centre of the area were silted up and their beds rose nearly on a level with the river banks. every high-water season brought floods. after liberation the county leading members, technicians and representatives of peasants walked several thousand kilometres to survey the courses of a 100 streams and rivers. they drew up an overall plan that envisaged several stages. over several years, people dredged twelve rivers and turned three thousand gullies into ditches to form a network to drain flood water away. the county is no longer affected by a rainfall of even three or four hundred mm. at a time. wasteland on the river banks and alkali soil were reclaimed. total grain output shot up, and the county's 1971 per-unit yield averaged four times the 1949 figure.

irrigation was expanded at the same time. more than twenty sluice-gates, over 200 pumping stations and 42,000 pump wells were built in eight counties alone.

in the centre of the area, yellow river flood water had widened the bed of a river from a few dozen metres to several hundred. large tracts of farmland were turned into sandy waste. sand-storms would rise in spring and bury houses and crops. the river was a scourge. in recent years the people there warmly responded to chairman mao's great call: "in agriculture, learn from tachai". they have the revolutionary

spirit of fearing neither hardship nor fatigue in dealing with sand-storms. during winter and spring, commune members and cadres planted trees on the sandy river banks. now shelterbelts, totalling 240 kilometres in length, stand on both banks of the river, protecting the farmland around. peasants also turned up clayey soil to cover the sand. much of the wasteland is now green.

yentiang county in the centre of the area is a national model in planting trees. after the 1938 disaster, drougnts, floods and sand-storms plagued the county. tne people fought them with an unyielding will starting with liberation. they conscientiously studied chairman mao's teachings on how to handle the relation among agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry. they understood that while building water control works, they should plant trees to improve the natural conditions. there has been a tree-growing mass drive every year since 1962. the county had over 5,300 hectares of trees by 1971. the trees around villages and houses and on marginal land average more than 100 per capita. a total of 2,000 kilometres of roads and 200 kilometres of waterways are lined with trees. this helps conserve soil and water, improve the climate, and check sand-storms to some extent. tnis has stimulated agriculture and animal husbandry, providing fodder and fertilizer. the county has reported an increase in grain and cotton every year since 1963. grain yield per hectare in 1971 was 70 per cent above that of 1962 and cotton yield rose three times. the county has become self-sufficient in grain and has a surplus.

in their struggle against natural disasters, the people applied chairman mao's brilliant philosophic thinking and devised many effective methods to control water and end salinity.

huayuankou people's commune is where the kuomintang reactionaries broke the yellow river dykes. eighty per cent of this area turned sandy and alkali. this held back agricultural production and endangered tne yellow river dykes. in the light of the philosophic idea "one divides into two", cadres and members of the commune saw both favourable and unfavourable aspects of the silt carried by the yellow river: it might settle down on the river bed and cause floods, or might be used to transform the sandy soil.

with state help, they constructed sluice-gates, dug ditches and built a project to bring yellow river water and silt to transform 2,670 hectares of land. an enormous depression, 167 hectares in area and 13 metres deep, caused by the kuomintang dyke-breach, has been turned into fertile farmland.

the commune dug and dredged many drainage and irrigation ditches and transformed much wasteland into rice paddies that gave good harvests. grain output of the commune in 1971 was nearly four tons per hectare, surpassing the target set for such areas in the national programme for agricultural development. this was six and a half times that of the early post-liberation period.

alongside the development of agricultural production, there has been a big expansion of local industry, culture, education and medicine in the area. before liberation, no industry existed. now statistics for eight counties show that more than 260 factories have been built, covering

machine-building, chemical fertilizer, cement, chemicals, textiles and other industrial branches. these counties have over 1,000 tractors, 12,000 diesel engines and 59,000 machines for drainage and irrigation and processing farm and side-line products. quite a number of communes and brigades have mechanized or semi-mechanized farming and the processing of farm produce.

the people of the former disasters-ridden area have been improving their livelihood steadily.

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